

## **FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD**

### **WORK SESSION**

**January 25, 2006**

**General Administration Building  
Olympia, WA**

**Board Members Present:** Sharon Colby, Wayne Wienholz, Jennifer Gregerson, TJ Nedrow, Jim Broman, Dean Hosni, Mark Kahley & Joe Coulman

**Board Members Absent:** Buck Lane

### **Opening**

WSP Chief Jon Batiste advised that the primary focus of his discussion with the Board would be the recruitment and selection process for the State Fire Marshal. Chief Batiste explained that initially they did not want to rush into the process, to allow the Bureau time to stabilize. He now feels it is time to gather stakeholder input and begin the process.

In discussion on possible strategies to broaden the candidate pool, Chief Batiste advised that the agency is in support of legislation that would allow a current member in the LEOFF system to have the option of continuing membership in LEOFF, rather than joining in PERS.

Following is a list of qualifications from Chief Batiste's perspective that he feels are imperative to consider when selecting the next State Fire Marshal:

- Experience at State Fire Marshal job level (budget, personnel, management experience and dealing with those on the outside experience)
- "People" person
- Quick study
- Experience at executive management level
- Training background (experience)
- Fire experience (beneficial)
- Lobbying experience and understanding of legislative process
- Ability to communicate both internally and externally (paramount)
- Chief Batiste also advised that it is important for the Fire Marshal to feel that they are an equally important member of the WSP, and that they have the ability to integrate with the other 5 bureaus of the WSP.

In discussion on the search process, it was agreed that the FPPB will discuss and recommend some fire service specific search firms to Chief Batiste, who will work with the DOP to select a search firm.

In general discussion with Chief Batiste it was suggested that it may be a good idea to have an emergency management representative on the Board.

It was agreed that Ellen would compile the list of desired qualifications as expressed at the Forum meeting on Monday, the previous recruitment and job description, and the comments made by Chief Batiste. She will then distribute the compiled list to the FPPB Members for their review and identification of any duplications or necessary additions, so they can be prepared to discuss this as a group at the Board meeting on February 22.

## **E-911 Committee**

Joe Coultman provided an overview of the following issues which were addressed at the January E-911 Advisory Committee:

- Cell Phones – Some cell phones are being locked into emergency mode after calling 911, which does not allow the phones to receive calls, and only allows the phone to dial 911. There does not seem to be a pattern of model or cellular phone provider.
- VOIP – There continues to be problems with Voice Over Internet Phones. There are still occurrences that these telephones do not provide an address, name or location when dialing a 911 Call Taking Center. Joe explained that this is extremely problematic in the case on an incapacitated caller. VOIP 911 calls continue to have a lot of static, which adds to the difficulty when trying to ascertain important information.
- Legislation – HB 2543, SB 6217 establishes the E911 Advisory Committee on a permanent basis. Joe advised that the 911 Harassment Law will be introduced next session.
- 211 – This service is slated to go live on February 23, 2006. The current concern is that callers may dial 211 instead of 911 for when needing help, etc.

Joe also distributed a handout which cites RCW 38.52.505 which states that a local fire chief, or his/her designee or city/county fire marshal will be responsible for enforcing the law regarding inspections of Private Branch Exchange (PBX) phone systems in schools.

## **State Fire Marshal Report**

Acting State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick advised that the FTA Business Plan calls for \$9 million for basic infrastructure. \$4-5 million of this total includes the cost of providing dormitories and food service.

Mike also advised that the draft proposal developed by the Fire Investigation Work Group was presented to Senator Honeyford, who advised that he is not in a position to take the plan forward this session. Mike advised that it may be necessary to explore utilizing the 2006-07 Regional Funding to allow for contracting for fire investigations with neighboring jurisdictions.

During an overview of the Regional Funding, it was pointed out that the FPPB could propose a line item for contracting with outside entities to perform fire investigations. Following discussion, Mike advised that he would follow up with Budget and Fiscal staff to discuss options for utilizing regional funding for contracting with other agencies.

## **Mobilization**

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Dan Johnson provided copies and an overview of a white paper proposal from the State Fire Defense Committee regarding pre-staging of resources. He advised that the paper will be edited and forwarded to the Governor.

## **Prevention**

In discussion regarding carrying forward with addressing the issue of fire prevention, Jim Broman advised that he prefers this project not be hurried along, and that he feels it would be beneficial to gather as many stakeholders together who have fire marshal responsibility of code enforcement together in order to gain an understanding of what is working, what is not working and other gaps from their perspective.

Anjela Foster advised that she will work with the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals in the interim to determine where fire marshal services are being provided.

In further discussion Jim Broman suggested developing a standard set of questions, with the understanding that it is important to understand what information we want to know before we start asking questions. Following the suggestion that each having constituent group represented on the FPPB forward their questions to Anjela, Dean Hosni further suggested that it may be beneficial form a few focused sub-committees, specific to topics, rather than one large, multi-focused committee.

### **Basic Firefighter Training Program**

Chuck King provided an overview of the current biennium allotment and scenarios based on a reimbursement increase of \$4-5 per hour. Chuck also provided a history of encumbrances and training hours to show a potential impact of raising the per hour reimbursement rate.

Some other options discussed include regionalized recruit schools and funding modules at different rates. It was pointed out that for budget purposes, it will necessary to have direction from the Fire Protection Policy Board regarding rate increases by May.

Chuck will work with Dean to provide a detailed history of the Basic Firefighter Training Program.

In discussion, Mark Kahley advised that he feels it is important to maintain the vitality of the Fire Training Academy, and to be cautious and methodical regarding regional training systems to reinforce the ability of the Fire Training Academy to be used for live fuel.

### **Regional Funding Presentations**

Regional Councils will be attending the May 24 FPPB meeting to present an overview of their accomplishments during the 2005-06 Regional Contract Period. The presentations will primarily focus on how the funds were used and how this furthered the Regions' ability to build local capacity in the areas of investigations, prevention and training.

Chuck King distributed a copy of the 2005-06 Contract Application and requested that if there are any changes the Board would like to see regarding contract deliverables, that they notify him as soon as possible.

### **Other**

Mark Kahley provided an overview of SB 6403 which mandates a study group to review the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee's Study of Wild land Suppression.

In response to Wayne Wienholz's question regarding further discussion on the issue of the Fire Protection Policy Board being an Advisory or a Policy Group, Sharon Colby advised that the issue would be discussed at a future date.

### **NEXT MEETING**

February 23, 2005– 9:00  
General Administration Building  
WSP HQ Conference Room

Approved:

---

Sharon Colby, FPPB Chair

(Date)

